

Trails

10th Edition

Release Date: July 1, 2013

Annual Trail Report - Fiscal Year 2012-13

Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Identify

16.5% of projects not developed, but identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database

21.34 miles awaiting further development

Study

9.9% of projects have been studied to determine a feasible alignment.

12.82 miles

Plan

26.3% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development.

34.15 miles

Design

4.9% of projects have been or are currently being designed.

6.43 miles

Construct

0.0% of projects have been or are currently being constructed.

0.00 miles*

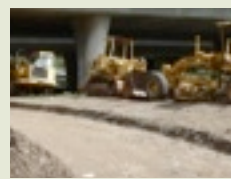
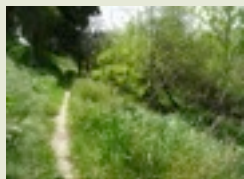
There are no projects under construction.

Open

42.4% of projects are open to the public.

54.97 miles*

* Mileage reflects: **43.84** (paved) and **11.13** (interim-gravel) miles



Trail development occurs through a series of steps - the figures provided show the miles of trails per these six stages.

Program Overview

The Trail Program's mission is to develop a 100-mile trail network by 2022 comprised of 36 individual trail systems as defined by the City of San Jose Green Vision. The percentages noted above are based on a 129-mile network identified in the City's Greenprint and General Plan.

This tenth annual report updates residents, the Mayor and City Council, and other stakeholders on progress made over the past 12 months. This period saw completion of the **6.7-mile paving project** along the Lower Guadalupe River and many other projects.

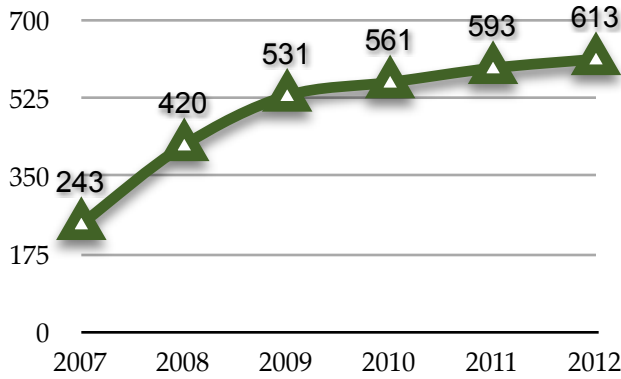
Readers of this report will note that many of the on-going projects result in master plans and construction documents. These projects do not provide immediate public access but place the City in an excellent position to competitively pursue grants that can lead to construction of additional trails.

Program Updates

Trail Count 2012

Volunteers from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and others joined with City of San José staff to conduct the sixth annual count of trail users. The September 2012 count captured volumes at six count stations along the Guadalupe River (2 stations), Los Gatos Creek (2 stations), Los Alamitos Creek Trail and the future Five Wounds Trail alignment. The data supports trail planning, competitive grant writing and supports the assertion that trails are an integral part of our transportation system. The San Jose Trail Program is a national leader in this effort, and local agencies and those from around the country have contacted City of San Jose staff for guidance on preparing trail counts.

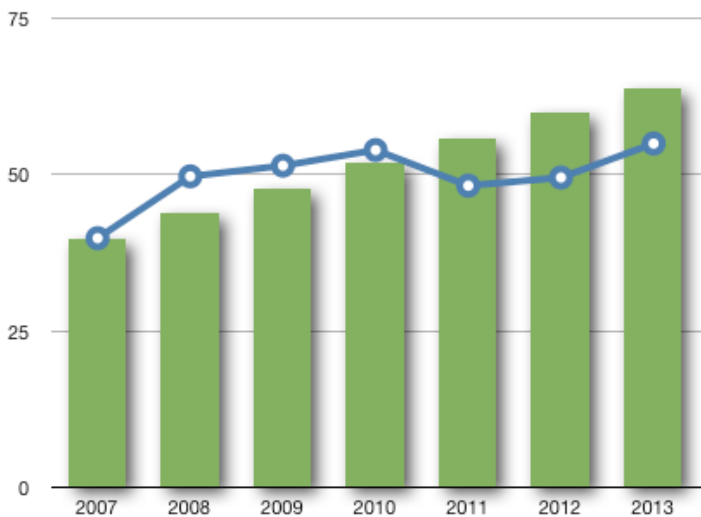




Some major findings from this Trail Count 2012 are:

- A **3.4% increase** in trail use at the Guadalupe River / Coleman Avenue Count station - this station has recorded increasing numbers over the past six years as shown by the chart.
- A **13.9% increase** in trail use at the Los Gatos Creek count station at Hamilton Avenue.
- The Five Wounds neighborhood counted persons walking and biking along a former railway at a new Story Road Count Station. Eighty-two persons travelled through the corridor during the morning and evening commute hours.

See the “Reports” section of the website for more information about Trail Count 2012 and past counts.



Green Vision

The City’s Green Vision sets forth ten goals to make San José the epicenter of the clean technology economy. Goal 10 guides staff in delivery of 100 miles of interconnected trails by 2022.

During this past fiscal year, pavement of new trails lags the Green Vision annual target - the network’s 54.97 mile size is about 10 miles below the Green Vision pace. However, over 6 miles are in the design stage and considered “shovel ready” once funding is secured through local and/or grant sources. As part of the 13/14 Budget, funding has been identified for a Strategic Plan to study the issue and develop recommendations for advancing the pace of development.

Grant Writing

Staff utilizes a Council-approved prioritization process to rank and align projects with grant funding opportunities. This approach ensures that the existing trail systems continue to expand in a logical manner and that the City targets grant applications in the most strategic manner. Over the past year, staff wrote and submitted 13 grant applications seeking over \$32,000,000 in funding. Staff is monitoring notification of grant awards.

Project	Grant / Amount	Program
Bay Trail Reach 9/9B	\$12.8M	TIGER
Bay Trail Reach 9/9B	\$12.8M	FLAP
Coleman Ave Under-Crossing	\$200,000	SCVWD
Coyote Crk (Tasman-Montague)	\$350,000	EEMP
Coyote Creek (280-Story)	\$800,000	OBAG
Coyote Creek (280-Story)	\$100,000	OSA
Coyote Creek (280-Story)	\$1,400,000	SAFETEA-Lu
Coyote Creek (280-Story)	\$190,000	Prop 40
Penitencia Creek (King-BART)	\$1.42M	OBAG
Thompson Crk (Quimby-Aborn)	\$350,000	EEMP
Three Crks Trail (Trail)	\$850,000	Urban Green
Three Crks Trail (Trestle)	\$800,000	Prop 40
Three Crks Trail (Trestle)	\$400,000	Prop 40

Social Networking

San José Trails has been on Twitter @SanJoseTrails since March 2010. Over 1400 “Tweets” have been posted to provide followers with information on projects, upcoming trail closures, and other news items. Over 500 followers account for **150% increase** in followers since last year.



Project Updates

Bay Trail Reach 9/9B - Alviso Slough, near Gold Street

A federal environmental document (NEPA) has been completed for a 540 foot pedestrian bridge, three under-crossing structures and a 1.1 mile paved trail.

The project has been subject of two major grant applications (FLAP and TIGER, both for \$12.8M).

Development of the project is an priority both locally and regionally. Completion of the trail project will close a gap that currently prevents 15 miles of off-street bike travel along the bay.

Coyote Creek - 237 Bikeway to Tasman Dr

Design documents are at the 65% stage for paving of the existing gravel trail. City staff is working with State of California staff to secure a recreational easement. Funding is in place through City funds and an EEMP grant to support construction during next fiscal year.

Coyote Creek - Montague Exp to Charcot Ave

City staff is collaborating with SCVWD to include trail improvements as part of the upcoming flood control design work. Staff will propose a cost-sharing agreement to the City Council in the new fiscal year so that all work occurs concurrently and will likely lead to time and cost savings. The project will include replacement of the Charcot Avenue Bridge - a new bridge will include a defined off-street trail in order to transfer from east to west bank of the trail.

Coyote Creek Trail - Private Sector Development

Private development along Coyote Creek will also deliver new trail mileage in coming years. The existing Flea Market site between Berryessa Road and Mabury Road will transition to housing and commercial activity in future years. The initial project will convert the surface parking lot to the north of Berryessa Road to a residential neighborhood. The project will include paved trail improvements between Berryessa Road and the

property boundary.

Another development north of Old Oakland Road is currently developing a master plan for park and trail improvements between Old Oakland Road and the Union Pacific Railway Trestle. Grading work is occurring at the site, with housing planned in the near future.

Lower Guadalupe River - Alviso to Highway 880

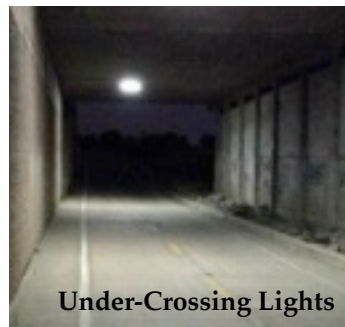
Construction of the 6.7 mile trail commenced in June 2012 and was completed in April 2013. The project was completed within its 10 month schedule, and accommodated continual use by recreational and commute users.

A public outreach campaign included monthly reports to advocacy groups, frequent Tweets via Twitter @SanJoseTrails, a press release, and phone hotline.



A ribbon cutting on April 20 celebrated San Jose’s trail from “Downtown San Jose to the Bay.” Visual observations suggest that trail usage has increased significantly since paving was completed -- Trail Count 2013 will document the change in usage.

The project included significant improvements including gateways, signage, reflective striping and lighting at all under-crossings. *Visit the last page of this report for more images of the newly opened Lower Guadalupe River Trail.*



Under-Crossing Lights



Reflective Striping

Lower Guadalupe River - Tasman Under-Crossing

Permits are being secured and design documents are being completed at this time. The project will elevate the under-crossing by 3' to avoid frequent tidal flooding. The pavement texture will be ground down to offer a smaller surface without loss of traction. Construction is anticipated to start in June 2014.

Los Gatos Creek Trail - San Carlos Street Under-crossing

Funding was secured through the region's Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) for the design, environmental clearance and engineering work for an under-crossing beneath San Carlos Street and a railway bridge. A Request for Qualifications was issued and an engineering design firm has been selected. Design work is expected to start early in the new fiscal year.

Lower Silver Creek Trail - Dobern Bridge to Story Road

Plans are developed to the 95% stage. The project will improve an existing but narrow path through Capitol Park, and visually distinguish the trail to better link it to the existing reaches of the regional trail system. The widened pavement includes a decorative stamped fish motif to suggest travel towards the waterway. Construction is expected to get underway in Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Penitencia Creek Trail - Alum Rock Park to Noble Avenue

Plans are at the 95% stage for a meandering trail along the banks of the creek. The project site is highly constrained and sensitive. The trail will include several 6' wide boardwalks that span the root systems of endangered California Sycamore trees. An interpretive station near Nobel Drive will convey information about the need for boardwalks, Sycamore trees, steelhead trout found in the waterway and the nearby covered bridge, once part of a trolley system to Alum Rock Park. A \$300,000 grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and a \$200,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy have been secured for construction of the trail between Noble Avenue and Dorel Drive.

Thompson Creek - Tully Avenue to Quimby Road

An interim trail opened along the creek in June 2008. Construction documents for a paved trail are prepared to the 95% stage. A gateway at Tully Road will define the entrance to the paved trail corridor. The project is developed in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, with joint use of lands and technical

assistance. Grant and City funding will support construction during Fiscal Year 2012-13. Staff is coordinating with the District to secure an agreement and permits for construction to proceed.

Three Creeks Trail - Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek

Signage was added at the properties between Lonus Street and Minnesota Avenue to encourage use of the trail in its "interim" state.

To date, staff have conducted two community meetings as part of master planning the future paved and landscaped trail system. The project will include decorative gateways that recall local history. Landscaping will include flowering trees to recall the area's orchards and the planting scheme will make use of California native, drought-tolerant and Mediterranean plant species. A final community meeting is scheduled for July 24.

Additional outreach on July 9 (Save Our Trails Board Meeting) and July 17 (Willow Glen Neighborhood Association Meeting) will present design options for the pedestrian bridge that will span Los Gatos Creek and link to that trail system.

The western alignment of the trail system (Lonus Street to Guadalupe River) has been acquired and is open in an "interim" state. Partial funding for property acquisition is provided through a grants from the [State of California \(Roberti Z'Berg Harris Grant\)](#), [Santa Clara County Open Space Authority](#) and the [Santa Clara Valley Water District](#).

Partners

Development of trails can only occur through partnerships with agencies, community groups and hardworking individuals. Many of the projects in this report would not be possible without the support of:

- City of San José City Council
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Staff from City of San José Departments and Offices
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- County of Santa Clara
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- State of California
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Save Our Trails

- Five Wounds Neighborhood / Communiversality
- California Coastal Conservancy
- Many residents, bike groups and trail advocates who encourage and support expansion of the trail network.

Lower Guadalupe River Trail

Some of the design features found along the 6.7-mile trail system linking Downtown to the Bay.



Decorative Gateways



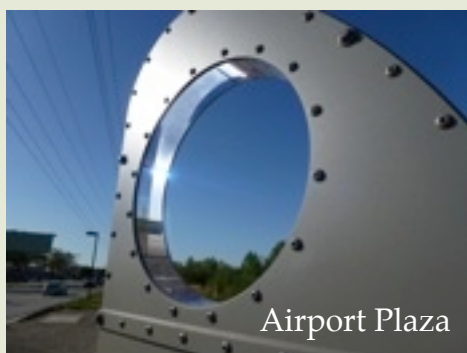
Interpretive Stations



Mileage Markers



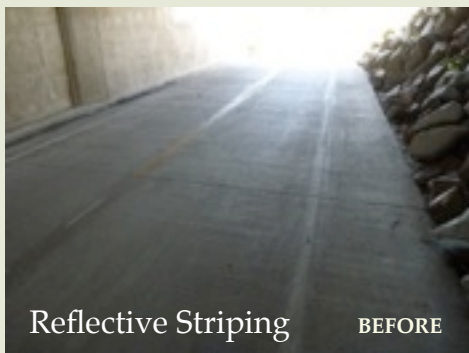
Directional Signage



Airport Plaza



12' wide multi-use trail

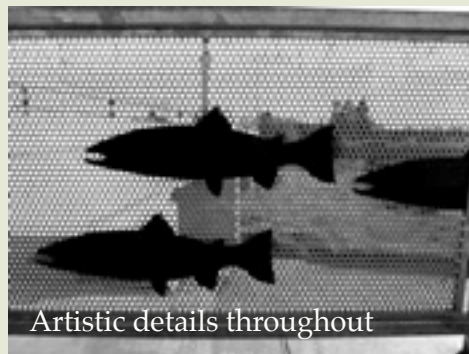


Reflective Striping

BEFORE



AFTER



Artistic details throughout



Interpretive Signage



San José's Trail Program

Mission: Complete a 100-mile network of trail systems to enhance, strengthen and connect neighborhoods



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